

## **ELECTRICAL BOARD MEETING**

### **Summary Minutes**

**January 29, 2004**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Chairman Joe Devish, Mike Hendrix, Philip Parker, Lea Gaskill, Chuck Greg, Fred Tricarico, Gloria Ashford, David A. Bowman, David S. Bowman, David Jacobsen, Charlene Clark, Richard Alford, Jim Simmons, and Secretary/Chief Electrical Inspector Ronald Fuller.

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

#### **Item 1          Approve Minutes**

The minutes of the October 30, 2003, meeting were approved as written.

#### **Item 2          Department Update**

Ron Fuller reported that there are several pieces of legislation that the department is working on however none dealing with the electrical program. The electrical program is tracking some bills, which mostly deal with exemption; one would create a program like electrical for HVAC.

Ron mentioned that the SCS manger off-site meeting was a success. The main issue of getting better communication with stakeholders was brought to the attention of the division. Since the last Specialty Compliance Section (SCS) manager's meeting, the division provided communication training to all inspectors and central office staff. The training was well received by staff. A mini- symposium is scheduled in April for electrical supervisors, compliance managers, and regional administrators.

Chairman Joe Devish gave an update on the status of the budget proposal was presented to the Board at the October 2003 meeting. The department requested the return of the \$7 million removed from the electrical fund in the 2003 legislative session that section was deleted by Office of Financial Management (OFM).

#### **Item 3          Electrical Revenue/Expenditure Report**

As of January 2004, the fund balance is slightly over 3.5 million. Ron mentioned that he would like to eventually see the \$7 million, lost during the 2003 legislative session, returned back to the fund to cover the additional administrative costs that the electrical program will be charged and to fund inspector pay raises.

#### **Item 4          Appeals**

##### **4A          Mark Shamp – Intent to Suspend General Journeyman Electrician Certificate**

The department and Mr. Shamp reached a settlement agreement prior to the Board hearing so the Board did not hear this appeal.

##### **4B          Randall VanAusdle – Intent to Suspend Residential Electrician Certificate**

The department and Mr. VanAusdle reached a settlement agreement prior to the Board hearing so the Board did not hear this appeal.

Chairman Devish discussed the violation of cutting ground rods and informed the appellants that the Board considered this an extremely serious violation and would not tolerate that kind of performance. Mr. Shamp and Mr. VanAusdle were placed on a four-year probation and were required to pay four times the normal penalty amount.

#### **Item 5          Presentation of Final Orders**

No final orders were presented.

#### **Item 6          Secretary Report –**

Ron Fuller presented the performance measures shown below. Ron also stated that he had met with Grant County Public Utility District (PUD) regarding the status of the telecommunication transition box issue and that he was very satisfied with the PUD's progress. Grant Co PUD has met the labeling requirements, the installation is satisfactory, and they have begun fixing the existing installations.

#### **Revenue Status**

The Electrical Fund balance through November 2003 was \$3.67 million.

#### **Customer Service**

During this past quarter, contractors used the Internet Purchasing of Electrical Permits (IPEP) system to purchase 10,433 permits. The quarterly average of all permit purchases is up 3.4% from last quarter to 32%.

During this past quarter, contractors used the Electrical Inspection Request Service (EIRS) to request 14,820 inspections. The quarterly average of all inspection requests done via EIRS is 1% from last quarter to 25%.

#### **Rule Revisions**

This will be covered under item 9 on agenda.

#### **Testing Lab Report**

No new testing labs have been approved.

#### **Performance Measures**

<b><u>Electrical Scorecard from July 2003 through December 2003</u></b>	
Goal (Target)	<b><u>State Totals</u></b>
1. Citations/Inspector/Month (1.5)	0.8
2. % Targeted Citations/Total Citations (45%)	47.3%
3. # of Individual Corrections/Contractor Corrections (<7.8)	4.6
4. % Stops <24 hours (89%)	86.6%
5. % Finals A/C of Finals Eligible (15%)	10.3
6. # of Stops/Inspector Day (workload indicator only)	9.5

Electrical Licensing – This unit is now fully staffed and is doing a good job meeting their goals.

Electrical Plan Review – Plan review has hired two new temporary staff to assist with the workload and we are beginning to see some improvement in the backlog.

#### **Item 7            Certification Quarterly Report**

Ron explained that the new exams have been on-line since January 2, 2004. We have not received any complaints of either the format or content of the new exams. To date, since January 2<sup>nd</sup>, LaserGrade has given 332 total exams with a 42% overall success rate. Meanwhile, the new electrician exams had a 31% overall success rate with 146 exams given. However, residential and low voltage candidates continue to struggle, most likely because they receive little or no formal training

New administrator exams have a 52% success rate with 109 exams given since January 2<sup>nd</sup>.

Administrator applicants may continue with the old exam or begin a new exam and take all parts. Old exams have a 42% success rate with 77 exams given since January 2<sup>nd</sup>. The main differences between the old and new exams are that the old version has easier questions less time per question, and the new exams have more difficult questions with more time per question.

#### **Item 8            Continuing Education**

Ron disclosed that the contract proposal has been developed for an outside vendor to perform the continuing education review and approval process. The department's contract review team is reviewing the contract proposal in February 2004. Ron would like to post the proposal information online by February 15, 2004, and begin to accept proposals until March 30, 2004. Evaluation would follow immediately. The department could then award the contract to be effective on June 1, 2004 (when the WAC rule is effective).

Instructor and class approval are separated in the request for proposal. The instructor's requirement will be either a department inspector, work for a manufacturer that authorizes them to train, (01) administrator or master electricians, or be a certified instructor. Ron explained the cost might increase however he also believes separating the instructor and class approval will ensure better-qualified instructors and faster turnaround of applications. Other reciprocal states are interested in this process. If it is successful, other states may join. Ron stated that in the long term a course sponsor could get approval for multiple states at one time.

#### **Item 9            Legislative Update and WAC 296-46B Proposals**

Ron Fuller reviewed several proposed changes to WAC 296-46B. Motion made and carried to support the changes.

#### **Item 10          Milt Foster & David Timothy**

Milt Foster and David Timothy spoke to the Board regarding concerns about the independent power producer exemption Ron Fuller agreed that there were valid concerns with the exemption and suggested that the department and the stakeholders get together to work on the rule and possibly the statute to clearly define independent power producer. The department will research the history of the rule and schedule a meeting with stakeholders to address this issue. The Board passed a motion to request the department to use an emergency rule, if necessary, to clearly define an independent power producer.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.